

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

REPORT

& Section

S. N. D. 246

Date July 23, 1931

Subject (in full) Re attached report by the Shanghai Times on the John Thorburn case.

Made by D. S. Golder.

Forwarded by

W.B. Kim S1.

In the July 23rd issue of the above newspaper, a report appears which sets forth in detail the arrest of John Thorburn as witnessed by a Catholic priest residing at Henli.

Mr. W. J. Mills of the H.B.M. Consulate was interviewed regarding the veracity of the report, he stated that no such report had been made to the Consulate, but that the British Authorities were investigating the matter. Mr. Mills expressed doubt as to the report in view of the fact that 7 weeks have elapsed since the reported occurrence took place.

Emfeldt
D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

S2, Further report later please.

W.B. Kim
24:7:31.

S2, Please prepare a summary in the form of a diary of the action taken by the Municipal Police in connection with the efforts to find Thorburn. The diary should in addition give an outline of the history of the case, and important happenings connected with it known to the Police.

Memorandum.

POLICE FORCE,
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL,

Shanghai, 23:7:1931.

To

S2,

Please ascertain
if the British
Consulate has
obtained this
information, and
if the newspaper
report regarding the
statement of the R. C.
priest is substantially
correct.

W. G.

THE HOUSE OF
Cuthbert

大 體 來

Appeal Of Local British Residents Received In London; Reply Comes Back Stating Action Will Be Taken; Chinese Comment

"The Shanghai Times" is anxious to give additional indisputable evidence of the capture of Thorburn, 19-year-old British resident of Shanghai, who has been missing for over seven weeks, was actually arrested in the vicinity of Quinsan by Chinese military police. The evidence has been furnished by a Catholic priest who actually sheltered Thorburn on the night of June 1 and, later, saw him seized by Chinese police and taken off to Quinsan. The evidence also shows that Thorburn broke away from his captors and dashed down the railway line where he was intercepted and again arrested after a struggle, during which he was wounded in the neck by a bayonet carried by one of the soldiers. What happened to Thorburn after his second arrest is a mystery which the entire foreign community of Shanghai is anxious to solve, with or without the aid of the Chinese authorities.

This further proof of Thorburn's arrest has come from a reliable source. The report gives details of the arrest as actually witnessed by our informant, a Catholic priest, who has since been unable to ascertain what happened to Thorburn after he was taken away by the Chinese police in the direction of the Quinman railway station.

[illegible]

Arrested and charged with the murder of his lover of the priest and only a New York man, and was released in the morning. That evening, the priest was arrested and led him to the direction of Graham. He was locked up temporarily in a small house, but somehow managed to break out, and God once again in the direction of the priest's house. Passed in, and on. That

violently, but was finally over-
come, receiving a bayonet wound
in the neck during the struggle.
Just how serious the wound was
the priest was unable to say, as
Taiburn was buried off in the
direction of the Quinsay railway
station. This was the last seen
of Taiburn by the priest.

Other Testimony

Other witnesses examined by Mr. A. L. Scott, British Vice-Consul, have stated that Thorburn had his arms tied behind his back and was taken by train from Quinsan to Soochow. Witnesses also stated that Thorburn was seen in Soochow, wounded and, an unconfirmed report states, mutilated.

In the light of this fresh evidence it appears beyond question that Thorburn was arrested by the Chinese military at Quinsan and was actually taken to the Quinsan railway station where he was entrained for Soochow.

Another Protest

In the meantime indignation in Shanghai is growing daily. The cabled protest signed by over 2,300 British residents has reached London where Mr. F. H. Crossley, formerly of Shanghai, who has cabled receipt of the protest, will see that it reaches the right quarters.

Still another national society has interested itself in the disappearance of Thorburn. Yesterday the Shanghai branch of the Anzac Society, consisting of local Australians and New Zealanders, forwarded the following telegraphic protest to the British Prime Minister:

Shanghai Anzac Society consisting of Anzacs who fought in Great War and Australians New Zealanders request China recent strongest indignation disappearance John Thorburn (Anzac) despite conclusive evidence of arrest obtained by British Authorities Chinese Government deny all knowledge of